

REMARKS

Claims 1-21 are pending. Claims 1-4, 6, 10, 13-15, 17-18, and 20 are amended. No new matter has been introduced. Reexamination and reconsideration of the present application are respectfully requested.

In the July 14, 2005 Office Action, the Examiner allowed claim 17. Applicants thank the Examiner and have slightly amended claim 17 to improve form. Applicants respectfully submit that claim 17 remains in condition for allowance.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 3, and 4-5 under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by Momii et al., U.S. Patent No. 6,052,665 (hereinafter Momii). (*July 14 Office Action, page 2*) The Examiner rejected claims 2, 6, 11-13 and 18-19 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Murphy, U.S. Patent No. 5,921,035 (hereinafter Murphy). (*July 14 Office Action, page 6*) The Examiner rejected claims 7 and 14 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Murphy and in further view of Flannagan et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,008,376 (hereinafter Flannagan). (*July 14 Office Action, page 12*) The Examiner rejected claims 8-10 and 15-16 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Murphy in view of Flannagan and in further view of Asayama, U.S. Patent No. 5,784,467 (hereinafter Asayama). (*July 14 Office Action, page 14*) The Examiner rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Murphy and in further view of Shimauchi et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,661,813 (hereinafter Shimauchi). (*July 14 Office Action, page 16-17*) The Examiner rejected claim 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103 (a) as being unpatentable over Momii in view of Murphy and in further view of Miyahira et al., U.S. Patent No. 5,321,848 (hereinafter Asayama). (*July 14 Office Action, page 18*) Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections in view of the claims as amended.

Independent claim 1, as amended, now recites:

A picked-up-sound reproducing method for picking up a sound present in a first sound field and reproducing the picked-up sound in a second sound field, said picked-up-sound reproducing method comprising:

detecting a sound pressure present in said first sound field and a sound pressure reproduced in said second sound field; and

adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field *by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field*, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.

The Momii reference does not disclose, teach or suggest the method specified in independent claim 1, as amended. Unlike the method specified in independent claim 1, as amended, Momii does not teach a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field *by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field*, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Instead, the Momii reference is directed to a technique for eliminating the difference in transmitted sound levels at respective terminals to realize a television conference system which does not cause a sense of disorder. (*Momii; Abstract and Col. 1, lines 7-10 and 60-67*) Momii discloses that transmitted sound levels from a plurality of terminals are adjusted to be equalized at the same level. (*Momii; Col. 8, lines 13-24*) The difference in sound intensity detected at microphone 1 and the desired output setting of another entity terminal 7 is calculated. The sound detected by microphone 1 is then adjusted via electronic volume 3 based on the aforementioned difference, and transmitted to terminal 7. This is distinct from the method

disclosed in claim 1, because adjusting the speech transmission level based on the difference between the sound intensity at a local input (microphone 1) and a predetermined output setting level is not the same as “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field *by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field*, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that independent claim 1, as amended distinguishes over the Momii reference.

Claims 2-4, 6 and 13, all as amended, recite limitations similar to those in independent claim 1, as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2-4, 6, and 13 distinguish over Momii for reasons similar to those set forth above with respect to independent claim 1, as amended.

Claim 5 depends from independent claim 3, as amended. Claims 7-12 and 21 depend from claim 6, as amended and claims 14-16 and 18-20 depend from claim 13 as amended. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 3, 7-12, 14-16 and 18-21 distinguish over Momii for the same reasons set forth above with respect to independent claims 3, 6, and 13.

With respect to claims 2, 6, 11-13 and 18-19, the Murphy reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii. The Murphy reference is directed to a drive through restaurant and window station. (*Murphy; Col. 1, lines 3-5*) Murphy discloses a drive through window station whereby a customer may order a meal item, oversee and direct the preparation of meal items and pay for and receive the items without leaving the car. (*Murphy; Col. 2, lines 32-45*) A two way communication means such as a combination speaker/microphone unit is provided to allow the

customer and food preparer to communicate. (*Murphy; Col. 2, lines 60-63*) However the combination of Momii and Murphy does not disclose a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field ***by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field***, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claims 2, 6, 11-13 and 18-19 distinguish over Momii in combination with Murphy.

With respect to claims 7 and 14, the Flannagan reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii and Murphy. The Flannagan reference is directed to a loudspeaking teleconferencing system. (*Flannagan; Col 1, lines 5-7*) Flannagan discloses a loudspeaking teleconferencing circuit including locations 604, 605, 606 and 607, each of which includes a speakerphone set arrangement, interconnected via a conference bridge 610. (*Flannagan; Col 10, lines 46-58 and FIG. 6*) However, the combination of Momii, Murphy and Flannagan does not disclose a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field ***by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field***, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claims 7 and 14 distinguish over Momii in combination with Murphy and Flannagan.

With respect to claims 8-10 and 15-16 the Asayama reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii, Murphy, and Flannagan. Asayama is directed to a method and apparatus

for reproducing acoustic characteristics of sound waves which are issued from a sound source and propagated to an arbitrary point in a three-dimensional virtual space. (*Asayama; Col. 1, lines 7-12*) However, the combination of Momii, Murphy, Flannagan and Asayama does not disclose a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field ***by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field,*** wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claims 8-10 and 15-16 distinguish over Momii in combination with Murphy, Flannagan and Asayama.

With respect to claim 20, the Shimauchi reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii and Murphy. The Shimauchi reference discloses a method and apparatus for multi-channel acoustic echo cancellation. (*Shimauchi; Col. 1, line 5-10 and Col. 5, lines 6-12*) However, the combination of Momii, Murphy and Shimauchi does not disclose a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field ***by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field,*** wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that claim 20 distinguishes over Momii in combination with Murphy and Shimauchi.

With respect to claim 21, the Miyahira reference does not make up for the deficiencies of Momii and Murphy. The Miyahira reference is directed to a wireless audio communication system for use in a drive up business. (*Miyahira; Col. 1, lines 8-13*) Miyahira discloses a

communication system having sound absorbent material 44 which helps to provide acoustic isolation between the speaker and the speaker enclosure. (Miyahira; Col. 4, lines 30-52)

However, the combination of Momii, Murphy and Miyahira does not disclose a method including “adjusting a sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field ***by equalizing an acoustical power in the first sound field received by an entire wall surface of the first sound field and an acoustical power radiated from a speaker in the second sound field***, wherein the sound pressure present in said first sound field is used as a reference value in adjusting the sound pressure to be reproduced in said second sound field.” Accordingly Applicants respectfully submit that claim 21 distinguishes over Momii in combination with Murphy and Miyahira.

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

///

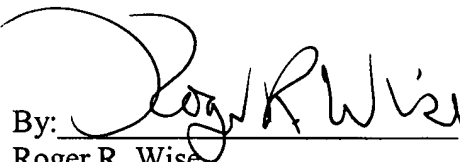
///

///

Applicants believe that the claims are in condition for allowance. If for any reason the Examiner finds the application other than in condition for allowance, the Examiner is requested to call the undersigned attorney at the Los Angeles, California telephone number (213) 488-7100 to discuss the steps necessary for placing the application in condition for allowance should the Examiner believe that such a telephone conference call would advance prosecution of the application.

Respectfully submitted,
PILLSBURY WINTHROP SHAW PITTMAN LLP

Date: October 12, 2005

By: 
Roger R. Wise
Registration No. 31,204
Customer No. 27496

725 South Figueroa Street, Suite 2800
Los Angeles, CA 90017-5406
Telephone: (213) 488-7100
Facsimile: (213) 629-1033